

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00553 181616Z

61

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /134 W
----- 058663

R 171500Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECTSTATE WASHDC 4019

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 859

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0553

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, XA

SUBJ: FONMIN MULLER DISCUSSES RHODESIAN AND
NAMIBIAN ISSUES WITH PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0537 (NOTAL)

1. HOLDING TO HIS PROMISE TO MEET WITH PROGRESSIVE PARTY
LEADER COLIN EGLIN TO DISCUSS EGLIN'S AND PROG MP F. VAN ZYL
SLABBERT'S TRIP TO BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES, FONMIN HILGARD
MULLER HAD PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH EGLIN AND SLABBERT SEPTEMBER

13. A FEW DAYS EARLIER MULLER HAD SAID IN PARLIAMENT:
"OPPOSITION MEMBERS HAVE ENTRANCE INTO COUNTRIES AND
INSTITUTIONS WHERE WE CANNOT ALWAYS GO. I THINK IT IS
NECESSARY THAT WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, THAT WE STAND
TOGETHER, AND THAT WE THINK IN TERMS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S
INTERESTS." MULLER'S APPROACH TO THIS MATTER HAS BEEN IN
DISTINCT CONTRAST TO POSITION TAKEN BY MINDEFENSE P.W. BOTHA,
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00553 181616Z

WHO VEHEMENTLY ATTACKED PROGS FOR MEETING WITH BLACK

AFRICANS (REFTEL).

2. EGLIN HAS TOLD US THAT MULLER LISTENED WITH INTEREST AS HE AND SLABBERT RELATED THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR VISIT. EGLIN SAYS THAT HE STRESSED TO MULLER THAT SOME BLACK AFRICANS RECOGNIZE THAT SA HAS A UNIQUE PROBLEM AND THAT IT HAS THE RIGHT, AS A SOVEREIGN STATE, TO DETERMINE ITS OWN DOMESTIC POLICIES (EVEN THOUGH THEY OPPOSE THOSE POLICIES). HOWEVER, THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA AND ITS STAND ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

3. MULLER RESPONDED THAT IT WAS UNTRUE THAT SOUTH AFRICA OPPOSED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. EGLIN SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE POINT, THAT WHAT CONCERNED THE AFRICANS WAS PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE IN RHODESIA AND SA'S ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR SMITH REGIME WHICH RESULTS FROM SAG'S INSISTENCE ON DISREGARDING ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF RHODESIA. MULLER REPLIED THAT, BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, SAG COULD NOT ABRUPTLY LEAVE RHODESIA IN THE LURCH. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT SAG HAS URGED RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT WITH BLACK RHODESIANS.

4. AS FOR NAMIBIA, MULLER SAID HE REALIZED, AS EGLIN HAD POINTED OUT TO HIM, THAT SOME MOVEMENT AWAY FROM STATUS QUO WAS NECESSARY. HE HINTED THAT SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICIES TOWARD NAMIBIA WERE IN THE WIND, BUT HE ADDED THAT SOME OF HIS VIEWS ON THIS SCORE WERE UNPOPULAR WITH SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN CABINET.

5. MULLER TOLD EGLIN HE HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO UNGA ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA ISSUE. HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS, AS WELL AS CHALLENGE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S CREDENTIALS, AND HE UNSURE WHETHER HE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS UNGA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAPET00553
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740262-0123
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740940/aaaabhno.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAPE TOWN 0537 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN MULLER DISCUSSES RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN ISSUES WITH PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, XA, (EGLIN, COLIN), (SLABBERT, F VAN ZYL), (MULLER)
To: SECTSTATE WASHDC 4019
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005